

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:	
PURPA STANDARDS IN THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007	DOCKET NO. NOI-2008-0003

ORDER CONTINUING INQUIRY

(Issued January 14, 2014)

On December 5, 2008, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order initiating a notice of inquiry in response to the requirements of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Among the many provisions of this federal legislation are four new federal electric ratemaking standards added to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. Smart grid issues predominated and since the inquiry was opened, two workshops have been held and written comments solicited on various smart grid issues.

On June 25, 2012, the Board issued a smart grid report that, among other things, contained an overview of current activity and technological advances on various smart grid projects Iowa utilities were undertaking. The order noted that the Board might solicit additional information in the future and on October 18, 2013, the Board issued an order requesting additional information on current smart grid issues. The Board noted in the order that it believed an update of utilities' activities and other participants' comments on current smart grid issues would be helpful so that all

participants and the Board have a common knowledge base to determine whether additional smart grid initiatives would provide value to utility customers.

MidAmerican Energy Company provided an update on its Synchrophaser project and Opower project. Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL) provided a general discussion of its Smart Grid Strategic Roadmap and its new customer care and billing system along with an update on its participation in several research programs, including the IBM/City of Dubuque Smarter Electricity Project.

The Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities updated the Smart Grid Investment Grant project and two time-of-use rate projects, as well as some of its members' smart grid projects. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives updated advanced metering infrastructure projects undertaken by ten of their members.

All comments submitted are available through the Board's electronic filing system (EFS), <https://efs.iowa.gov>. The comments provide an overview of current activities related to smart grid deployment. IPL views distribution system enhancements as leading smart grid opportunities; some municipal utilities are considering dynamic pricing; and several cooperatives are investing in advance metering infrastructure. A summary of the comments prepared by the Board's staff is also available through the EFS.

The Board thanks all participants for their continuing interest, participation, and comments. The Board intends to monitor future smart grid developments and will

ask participants to update any smart grid plans and developments when circumstances warrant, or in approximately one year.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The Board is continuing the inquiry into smart grid activities, identified as Docket No. NOI-2008-0003, to monitor smart grid developments and request additional information from participants, as appropriate.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad
Executive Secretary

/s/ Sheila K. Tipton

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 14th day of January 2014.